AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

We claim:

1.(Currently Amended) A polyamide ~~containing~~ comprising a compound which ~~bears~~ includes at least one hydroxy group and has chemical bonding by way of an amide group to the end of the polymer chain, where the compound which ~~bears~~ includes at least one hydroxy group is a linear, unbranched alkanemonocarboxylic acid which ~~bears~~ includes at least one terminal hydroxy group.

2. (Currently Amended) A polyamide as claimed in claim 1, where the unbranched monocarboxylic acid ~~which bears at least one terminal hydroxyl group~~ has the formula
$HO - (CH_2)_n - COOH$
where n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, or 15.

3. (Currently Amended) A polyamide as claimed in claim 1, where the unbranched monocarboxylic acid ~~which bears at least one terminal hydroxyl group~~ has the formula
$HO - (CH_2)_5 - COOH$.

4. (Currently Amended) A polyamide as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, where ~~the content of~~ the compound which ~~bears~~ includes at least one hydroxy group is present in the range from 0.001 to 2 mol%, based on 1 mole of amide groups of the polyamide.

5. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a polyamide~~, which comprises carrying out the reaction of~~ comprising providing monomers suitable for forming a polyamide ~~to give a polymide in the presence of a compound~~ and a linear, unbranched alkanemonocarboxylic acid which ~~bears~~ includes at least one terminal hydroxy group, ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3~~ and polymerizing the monomers in the presence of the unbranched alkanemonocarobxylic acid.

6. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a polyamide, ~~which comprises carrying out the reaction of~~ providing oligomers suitable for forming a polyamide ~~to give a polymide in~~

~~the presence of a compound~~ and a linear, unbranched alkanemonocarboxylic acid which ~~bears~~ includes at least one terminal hydroxy group, ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3~~ and polymerizing the oligomers in the presence of the unbranched alkanemonocarobxylic acid.

7. (Currently Amended) A fiber~~, a film, or a molding,~~ comprising a polyamide as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.

8. (New) A film comprising a polyamide of claim 1.

9. (New) A molding comprising a polyamide of claim 1.

10. (New) A polyamide as claimed in claim 3 where the compound which includes at least one hydroxy group is present in the range from 0.001 to 2 mol%, based on 1 mole of amide groups of the polyamide.

11. (New) A polyamide that is end-capped with an unbranched C_1-C_{15} alkane with at least one terminal hydroxyl group.

12. (New) The polyamide of claim 11 where the unbranched alkane is an attached n-pentanol.

13. (New) A polyamide comprising monomeric or oligomeric units of an arylaliphatic lactam or aliphatic lactam, where the polyamide is end-capped with an unbranched C_1-C_{15} alkane with at least one terminal hydroxyl group.

14. (New) The polyamide of claim 13 where the monomeric or oligomeric units are selected from the group consisting of enantholactam, undecanolactam, dodecanolactam and caprolactam.

15. (New) The polyamide of claim 13 where the monomeric or oligomeric units are based on caprolactam and the polyamide is end-capped by the reaction of 6-hydroxycaproic acid.

16. (New) The polyamide of claim 15 in combination with an inorganic or organic pigment.

17. (New) A polyamide prepared by a process comprising:

providing monomers or oligomers selected from an arylaliphatic or aliphatic lactam, aminocarboxylic acids or aminocarbonitriles;

providing an unbranched alkanemonocarboxylic acid having at least one terminal hydroxyl group; and

polymerizing the monomer or the oligomers in the presence of the unbranched alkanemonocarboxylic acid to provide a polyamide that is end-capped with an unbranched alkane having at least one terminal hydroxyl group.

18. (New) The polymer of claim 17 where the monomeric or oligomeric units are based on caprolactam and the alkanemonocarboxylic acid is 6-hydroxycaproic acid.